

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully solicited.

Claims 1 through 5 are pending, with Claims 1 and 5 being independent. Claim 4 has been amended. The specification has been amended.

Transmitted herewith is one replacement sheet of formal drawings comprising Fig. 5 to be substituted for the corresponding drawing sheet presently on file. In the replacement sheet, in box S404, "CUEERNT" has been changed to --CURRENT--. Favorable consideration is earnestly solicited.

Claims 1 through 5 were variously rejected under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103 over U.S. Patent No. 5,204,710 (Tsukamoto, et al.), alone or in combination with U.S. Patent No. 5,406,345 (Hirasawa). All rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claims 1 and 5 recite, inter alia, calculating a differential value between a phase component of position detection data that have been obtained based on a detection signal of the position sensor when the lens has been moved to a predetermined reference position and a phase component of position control data for controlling the position of the lens and corresponding to the reference position.

However, Applicant respectfully submits that neither Tsukamoto, et al. nor Hirasawa, even in combination, assuming, arguendo, that the documents could be combined, discloses or suggests at least the above-discussed claimed features as recited, inter alia, in Claims 1 and 5. The Official Action relies, inter alia, upon col. 6, lines 2 through 13 of Tsukamoto, et al. However, Applicant respectfully submits that such discloses, e.g., comparing the output voltage of the focus encoder 18 with a voltage corresponding to the electric limit line EL, which provides

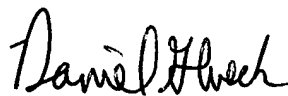
neither a description nor a suggestion of at least the above-discussed claimed features including the recitations of "phase components" as recited. It is further respectfully submitted that there has been no showing of any indication of motivation in the cited documents that would lead one having ordinary skill in the art to arrive at such claimed features.

The dependent claims are also submitted to be patentable because they set forth additional aspects of the present invention and are dependent from independent claims discussed above. Therefore, separate and individual consideration of each dependent claim is respectfully requested.

Applicant submits that this application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,



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